

A New Species of *Apanteles* from South America Being Introduced into California

(Hymenoptera: Braconidae)

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A new species of *Apanteles* is described to provide a name for studies being conducted at the University of California, Riverside. This species is being released in California against the potato tuber-worm, *Phthorimaea operculella* (Zeller) and the tomato pinworm, *Keiferia lycopersicella* (Walsingham). It was collected in Colombia as a parasite of *Scrobipalpula absoluta* (Meyrick). The National Collection also contains specimens from Chile and Peru. Jack C. Hall, Division of Biological Control, University of California, Riverside, California, supplied the material from Colombia and has requested the name.

Apanteles gelechiidivoris, new species

Female. Length of body: 2.5 mm. Color: black except mandibles, palpi, apices of femora, tibiae and tarsi which are testaceous or dark brown; stigma translucent and margined on all sides by brown, wing veins brown. Head: shining, finely punctate, densely covered by short white pubescence; malar space about as long as clypeus; face only very slightly narrower at clypeus than at antennae, at its narrowest part about equal to eye height; antennae shorter than body. Thorax: stout; mesonotum flat, shiny, very finely punctate, punctures separated, densely and evenly covered with short white pubescence; disc of scutellum flat, shining, sparsely punctured, polished area on lateral face of scutellum semicircular, small; propodeum (fig. 1) smooth and shining on dorsal surface, slightly rugose laterally and strongly rugose medially at apex where rugae form lower part of an areola, costulae absent; meso- and metapleura smooth and polished. Legs: hind coxa smooth and polished, with a few scattered punctures dorsally at base; inner spur of hind tibia a little longer than outer and less than half as long as hind basitarsus. Wings (fig. 3): stigma short and broad, broader than length of first segment of radius, inner and outer sides nearly equal in length; metacarpus as long as stigma; first segment of radius slightly curved, longer and narrower than intercubitus; nervellus slightly curved at apex; vannal lobe evenly convex and with fringe of hair. Abdomen: short, often compressed laterally at apex in dead specimens; median plate of first tergum nearly parallel sided, only slightly narrower at apex than at base, longer than apical width, smooth at base and rugose at apex, no indication of median depression at apex (fig. 2); median plate of second tergum nearly four times as wide as long, apical width about two times basal width, weakly rugose at base (fig. 2); hypopygium acute at apex and extending slightly beyond apex of abdomen; ovipositor about as long as hind tibia, evenly curved downward.

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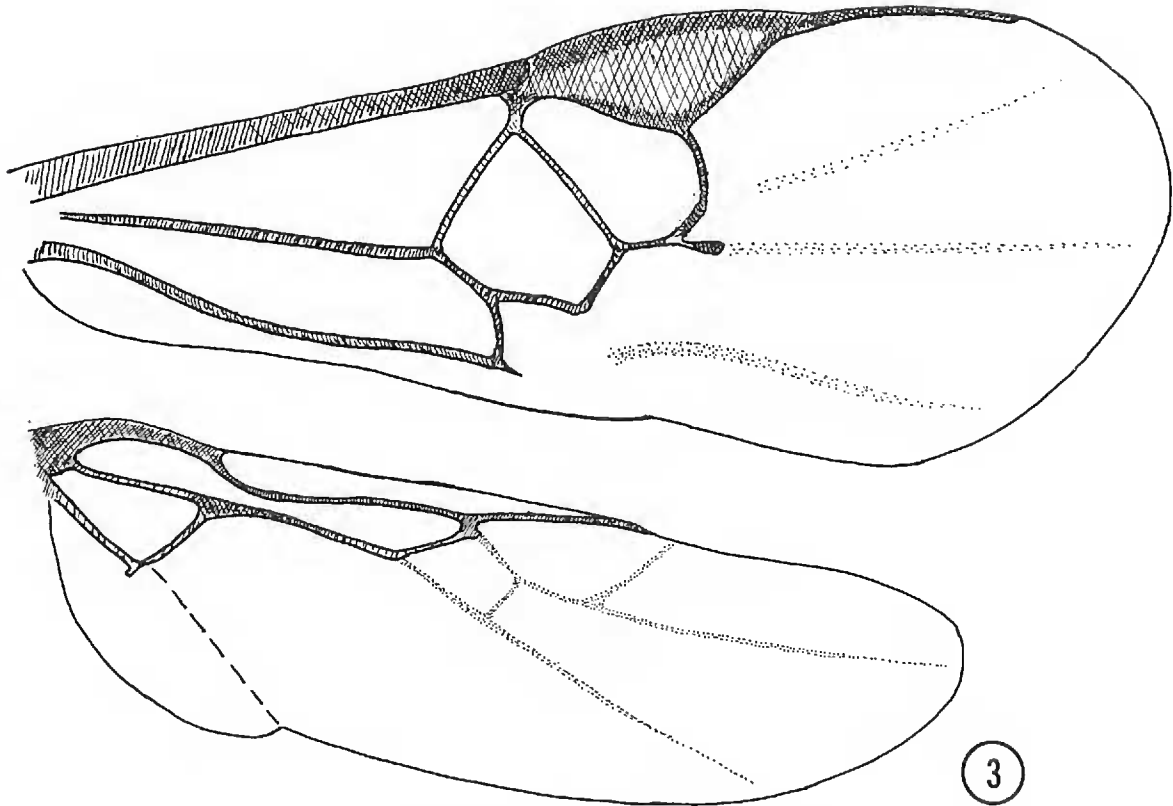


FIG. 3. *Apanteles gelechiidivoris*, n. sp.: fore and hind wings.

Male. Essentially as in female except antennae longer than body, median plate of first tergum slightly narrower at apex, and median plate of second tergum slightly longer.

Holotype female: COLOMBIA, PALMIRA, V-14-74, A. Sandarriaga, ex. *Scrobipalpa absoluta* on tomato. USNM type no. 73373. Paratypes: Chile: Arica, 7 ♀♀, XI-1965, H. Vargas, ex. *Gnorimoschema absoluta* on tomato; Arica, 11 ♀♀, 3 ♂♂, no date or collector, ex. *Gnorimoschema absoluta*. Colombia: 5 ♀♀, 3 ♂♂, same data as holotype; Garagoa, 4 ♀♀, 5 ♂♂, 4-30-73, E. R. Oatman, ex. gelechiid on tomato; Mosquera, 5 ♀♀, 5 ♂♂, 5-4-73, E. R. Oatman, ex. gelechiid on potato. Peru: LaMolina, 4 ♀♀, 1 ♂, XI-3-64, A. S. Guido and Silveira; Canete, 7 ♀♀, 5 ♂♂, XI-3, 6, 26-1964, A. S. Guido and Silveira; no locality, 2 ♀♀, 1966, ex. *Gnorimoschema operculella* on tomato. Paratypes deposited in U. S. National Museum, University of California, Riverside, and in the Introduced Beneficial Insects Voucher Collection, Beneficial Insects Introduction Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.

Apparently this species is widely distributed along the Andes in South America. It belongs to the *laevigatus* group as defined by Nixon (1965 Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.), Ent., Suppl. 2, p. 181). In South

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FIGS. 1-2. *Apanteles gelechiidivoris*, n. sp.: 1, propodeum, dorsal view, × 160 magnification; 2, abdominal terga 1 and 2, × 185 magnification. Scanning electron micrographs made at 5kv on a Cambridge II Scanning Electron Microscope.

America, it is similar to *subcristatus* Blanchard but can be distinguished by the smoother propodeum, sculptured median plate of the second tergum, and by the median plate of the first tergum being wider at the apex. In North America, *gelechiidivoris* is closest to *miantonomoi* Viereck but differs in the smoother propodeum and more slender hind tibia.

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